



This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

### Usage guidelines

Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

We also ask that you:

- + *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.
- + *Refrain from automated querying* Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.
- + *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.
- + *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

### About Google Book Search

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at <http://books.google.com/>

The American Board of Commissioners  
for Foreign Missions-1835

10041  
10.2



C 10041.10,2

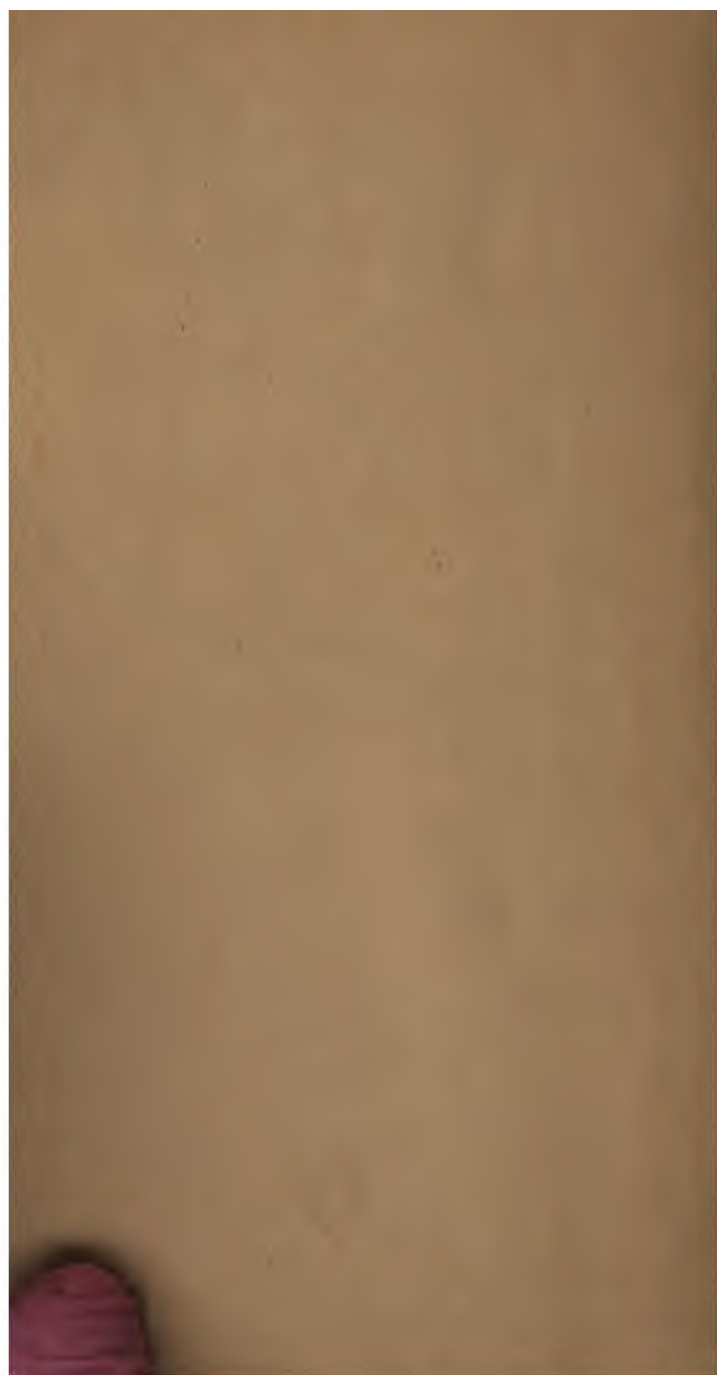
\*

Harvard College  
Library



THE GIFT OF  
WILLIAM RICHARDS CASTLE, JR.  
*Class of 1900*







1



**CONSTITUTION,**  
**LAWS, AND REGULATIONS**  
**OF THE**  
**AMERICAN BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**FOR**  
**FOREIGN MISSIONS.**

---

**BOSTON :**  
**PRINTED FOR THE BOARD BY CROCKER & BREWSTER,**

---

**1835.**

C10041.10.2

HARVARD COLLEGE LIBRARY

GIFT OF

WILLIAM RICHARDS CASTLE, Jr.



Feb. 7, 1934

CONSTITUTION, LAWS, AND REGULATIONS  
OF THE AMERICAN BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR FOREIGN MISSIONS.

---

ACT OF INCORPORATION.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

*In the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Twelve: An Act to incorporate the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions.*

Whereas WILLIAM BARTLET and others have been associated under the name of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, for the purpose of propagating the gospel in heathen lands, by supporting missionaries and diffusing a knowledge of the holy Scriptures, and have prayed to be incorporated in order more effectually to promote the laudable object of their association.

SEC. 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same,* That WILLIAM BARTLET, Esq. and SAMUEL SPRING, D. D., both of Newburyport, JOSEPH LYMAN, D. D., of Hatfield, JEDIDIAH MORSE, D. D., of Charlestown, SAMUEL WORCESTER, D. D., of Salem, the HON. WILLIAM PHILLIPS, Esq., of Boston, and the Hon. JOHN HOOKER, Esq., of Springfield, and their associates, be, and they hereby are incorporated and made a body politic by the name of the AMERICAN BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR FOREIGN MISSIONS, and by that name may sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, appear, prosecute, and defend, to final judgment

and execution ; and in their said corporate capacity, they, and their successors forever, may take, receive, have and hold in fee-simple or otherwise, lands, tenements, and hereditaments, by gift, grant, devise, or otherwise, not exceeding the yearly value of four thousand dollars ; and may also take and hold by donation, bequest, or otherwise, personal estate to an amount, the yearly income of which shall not exceed eight thousand dollars ; so that the estate aforesaid shall be faithfully appropriated to the purpose and object aforesaid, and not otherwise. And the said corporation shall have power to sell, convey, exchange, or lease all or any part of their lands, tenements, or other property for the benefit of their funds, and may have a common seal which they may alter or renew at pleasure. *Provided*, however, that nothing herein contained shall enable the said corporation, or any person or persons, as trustees for or for the use of said corporation, to receive and hold any gift, grant, legacy, or bequest, heretofore given or bequeathed to any person in trust for said Board, unless such person or persons, could by law have taken and holden the same, if this act had not passed.

**SEC. 2.** *Be it further enacted*, That the said Board may annually choose from among themselves, by ballot, a President, a Vice President, and a Prudential Committee ; and, also, from among themselves or others a Corresponding Secretary, a Recording Secretary, a Treasurer, an Auditor, and such other officers as they may deem expedient ; all of whom shall hold their offices until others are chosen to succeed them, and shall have such powers and perform such duties as the said Board may order and direct ; and in case of vacancy by death, resignation, or otherwise, the vacancy may in like manner be filled at any legal meeting of the said Board. And the said Treasurer shall give bond with sufficient surety, or sureties, in the judgment of the Board, or the Prudential Committee, for the faithful discharge of the duties of his office.

**SEC. 3.** *Be it further enacted*, That all contracts, and deeds, which the said Board may lawfully make and execute, signed by the chairman of the said Prudential Committee, and countersigned by their clerk, (whom they are hereby authorized to appoint,) and sealed with

the common seal of said corporation, shall be valid in law to all intents and purposes.

SEC. 4. *Be it further enacted*, That the first annual meeting of the said Board shall be on the third Wednesday of September next, at such place as the said William Bartlet may appoint, and the present officers of said Board shall continue in office until others are elected.

SEC. 5. *Be it further enacted*, That the said Board, at the first annual meeting aforesaid, and at any subsequent annual meeting, may elect by ballot any suitable persons to be members of said Board, either to supply vacancies, or in addition to their present number.

SEC. 6. *Be it further enacted*, That the said Board shall have power to make such bye-laws, rules, and regulations, for calling future meetings of said Board, and for the management of their concerns, as they shall deem expedient; *provided* the same are not repugnant to the laws of this Commonwealth.

SEC. 7. *Be it further enacted*, That one quarter part of the annual income from the funds of said Board shall be faithfully appropriated to defray the expense of imparting the Holy Scriptures to unevangelized nations in their own languages: *Provided*, that nothing herein contained shall be so construed as to defeat the express intentions of any testator or donor, who shall give or bequeath money to promote the great purposes of the Board. *Provided*, also, that nothing herein contained shall be so construed as to restrict said Board from appropriating more than one quarter of said income to translating and distributing the Scriptures whenever they shall deem it advisable.

SEC. 8. *Be it further enacted*, That not less than one third of said Board shall at all times be composed of respectable laymen; and that not less than one third of said Board shall be composed of respectable clergymen; the remaining third to be composed of characters of the same description whether clergymen or laymen.

SEC. 9. *Be it further enacted*, That the Legislature of this Commonwealth shall at any time have the right to inspect, by a Committee of their own body, the doings, funds, and proceedings of the said Corporation, and may at their pleasure alter or annul any or all of the powers herein granted.

*In the House of Representatives, June 19th, 1812.*—This bill having had three several readings, passed to be enacted. **TIMOTHY BIGELOW, Speaker.**

*In the Senate, June 20th, 1812.*—This bill having had two readings, passed to be enacted.

**SAMUEL DANA, President.**

*June 20th, 1812.*—By the Governor, Approved.

**CALEB STRONG,**

Copy—Attest,

**ALDEN BRADFORD,**  
*Secretary of the Commonwealth.*

N. B.—The *Associates*, alluded to in the foregoing act, were the Hon. JOHN TREADWELL, LL. D., the Rev. TIMOTHY DWIGHT, D. D. LL. D., President of Yale College, Gen. JEDIDIAH HUNTINGTON, and the Rev. CALVIN CHAPIN, all of Connecticut.

## **LAWS AND REGULATIONS OF THE BOARD.**

### **1. OBJECT OF THE BOARD.**

The object of the Board is, to propagate the gospel among unevangelized nations and communities, by means of preachers, catechists, schoolmasters, and the press.

### **2. MEMBERS OF THE BOARD.**

1. *Corporate Members.*—The Corporate members of the Board, are those who have the right of voting at its meetings. These, according to the Act of Incorporation, must be elected by ballot, and only at the annual meetings. Not less than one third of the corporate members must be laymen.

The corporate members, besides being under special obligation to attend the meetings of the Board, are pledged to attend the anniversary meetings of Auxiliary Societies, when required by the Prudential Committee, as a Deputation from the Board; their travelling expenses, in going to and returning from the places of such meetings, being paid out of the Treasury of the Board.

2. *Corresponding Members.*—Clergymen and laymen, residing in distant parts of the United States and in for-

eign lands, may be elected by ballot, as Corresponding members of the Board; who, though it be no part of their official duty to attend its meetings, or take part in its votes or resolutions, yet, when occasionally present, may assist in its deliberations, and by communicating information and in other ways, enlighten its course, facilitate its operations, and promote its objects.

3. *Honorary Members.*—Clergymen, on paying fifty dollars, and other persons, on paying one hundred dollars, at any one time, shall be entitled to the privilege of attending the meetings of the Board, and of assisting in its deliberations as honorary members; it being understood, however, that the right of voting is restricted, by the charter, to the corporate members.

4. The certificates of membership for corporate members shall be signed by the President and Recording Secretary of the Board; for corresponding members, by the Secretaries for correspondence; and for honorary members, by the Treasurer.

### 3. OFFICERS OF THE BOARD.

1. The officers of the Board shall be a President, Vice President, a Prudential Committee, as many Secretaries as are necessary, a Treasurer, and two Auditors. These must be chosen by ballot, and they hold their offices until others are appointed to succeed them.

2. It shall be the duty of the President, and in his absence of the Vice President, to preside at each meeting of the Board, and to perform such official acts, either during the session of the Board, or at any other time, as shall be assigned to him by any bye-law or vote of the Board. In the absence of both the President and Vice President, the meeting shall be called to order by the oldest member present, after which a presiding officer shall be chosen for the occasion.

One of the members of the Committee, or one of the Secretaries of the Board, shall be appointed clerk of the Committee, who shall keep a full record of their doings, and sign all their official acts. The records above described shall be always open to the inspection of the Board.

3. It shall be the duty of the Prudential Committee to carry into effect all resolutions and orders of the Board,



edit its official publications, and perform such other duties as the Board or the Prudential Committee shall particularly direct; dividing the appropriate labors of their department among themselves, under the advice and direction of the Prudential Committee.

5. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to take the charge of all monies paid into the treasury of the Board, and to give receipts therefor;—to keep safely all the funds and monies of the Board, and all notes, bonds, deeds, and other evidences of property;—to keep fair and accurate accounts of all monies received and expended;—to make out annually a statement of receipts and payments, and of the condition of the several permanent funds, for the information of the Board;—to invest and deposit monies, and make remittances and payments, according to the direction of the Board, or of the Prudential Committee;—to exhibit his books, accounts, vouchers, and evidences of property, whenever required, to the Board or the Prudential Committee;—to conduct the correspondence relating immediately to his department; and perform such other acts as are necessary to the faithful execution of the duties of his office.

6. It shall be the duty of the Auditors to examine the books of the Treasurer thoroughly and particularly, at least once a year; and, if they shall find the accounts correctly kept and accurately cast, the payments well vouched, the balance satisfactorily stated and accounted for, and the evidences of property duly exhibited, to give their certificate accordingly; which certificate they shall enter at large in the Treasurer's books, and transmit or deposit a duplicate thereof with the Recording Secretary, to be by him entered in his book of records.

7. In addition to the officers above named, there shall be a certain number of General Agents, appointed by the Prudential Committee for particular districts of country; whose duty it shall be, within their respective fields, to co-operate with the agents of other societies, with the pastors of churches, with ecclesiastical bodies, with the officers of the Board and its auxiliaries, and with other friends of missions, in promoting a missionary spirit, and in drawing out the resources of the christian community, for the speedy promulgation of the gospel through the world. The General Agents shall be entitled to the privileges of honorary members of the Board.

## 4. MEETINGS OF THE BOARD.

1. If, in the opinion of the Prudential Committee, it shall at any time be dangerous to the health of the members of the Board, or on any other account highly inexpedient, to meet at the place appointed for any annual meeting, the Prudential Committee are authorized to appoint some other place for such meeting, by sending a notice of such change to at least six of the religious newspapers, published in different parts of the country, and also a printed notice to each corporate member of the Board.

2. No member, who shall be present at any meeting, shall consider himself at liberty to leave, until he shall have applied to the Board and obtained permission; and members, who may consider it necessary to be absent during any part of a session, shall be expected to give as early notice as possible of their contemplated absence.

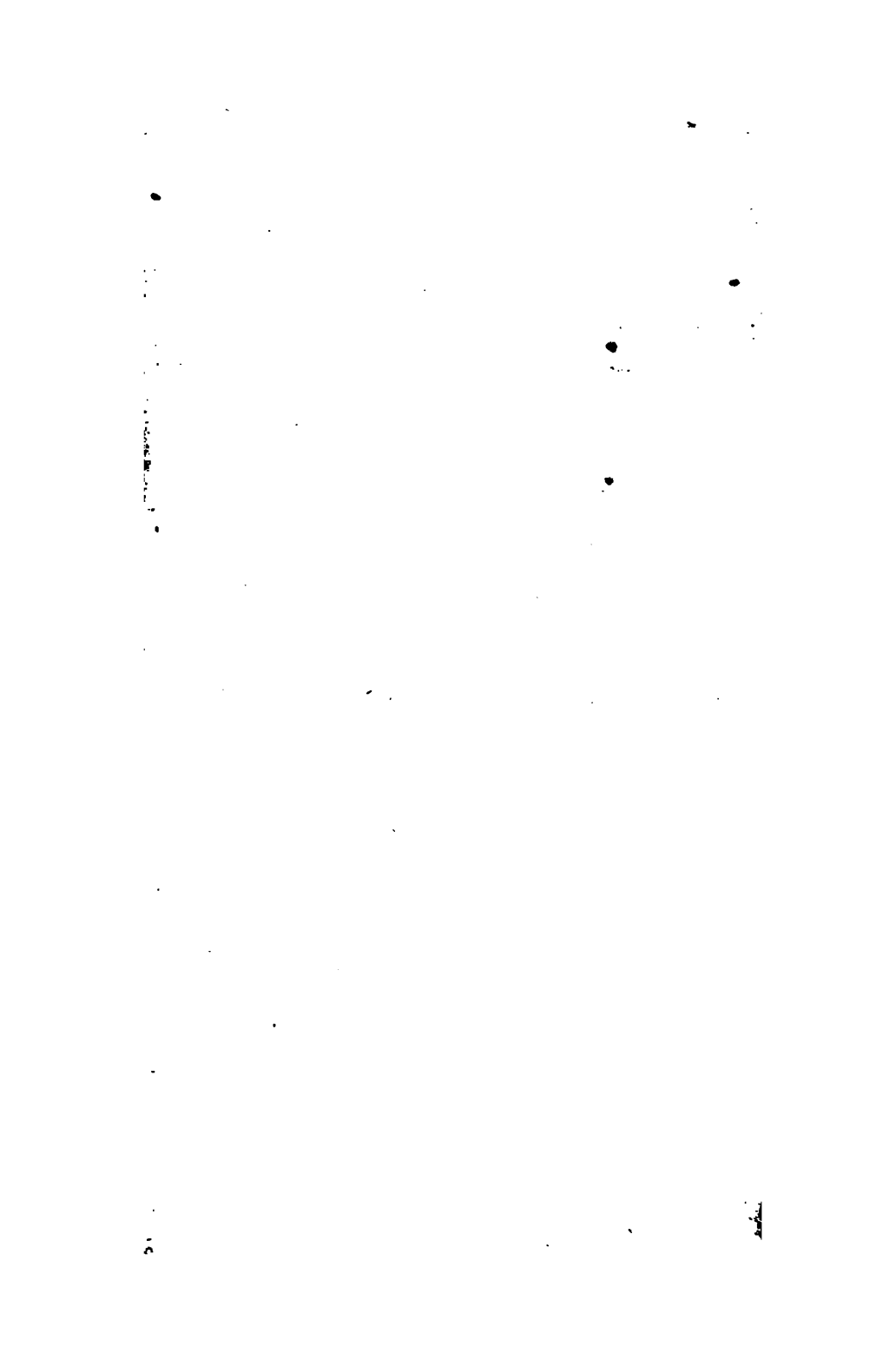
3. The successive daily sessions shall each be opened with prayer.

4. Committees may be selected from each of the three classes of members.

5. There shall be an annual sermon preached before the Board by a person appointed at a previous meeting. A second preacher shall be appointed to preach in case of his failure, who shall be first on the list of candidates for preachers at the succeeding anniversary. Should both be prevented from preaching, the Prudential Committee are authorized to procure a preacher.

6. At the annual meetings, unless peculiar circumstances should render it inexpedient, the Board will unite with their fellow Christians in the celebration of the Lord's supper; and such celebration shall take place in the afternoon of the second day of the session.

7. Each corporate member of the Board, who shall apply to the Treasurer for the same, shall be allowed ten cents a mile for travelling expenses in attending any annual meeting of the Board, reckoning the distance only one way, and the usual route from his place of residence to the place of meeting. It is understood that no one shall receive a greater sum than the amount of his actual expenses in going to and returning from the meeting;



money in preparing the candidate more fully for the service assigned him.

3. A *missionary* is one, who has been ordained a minister of the gospel, and is actually under the direction of the Board. All others, whether licensed preachers, physicians, schoolmasters, printers, etc. are *assistant missionaries*, but, in the Reports of the Prudential Committee, shall generally be designated by their specific occupations.

4. Whenever any missionary or assistant missionary has, in the judgment of the Prudential Committee, violated the instructions given him, whether before or after entering the field of his missionary labors, or has failed to perform any duty reasonably required of him, they are authorized to dismiss him, in case they deem it expedient, from the service of the Board. In all cases, however, where the missionary or assistant missionary has actually been named in any of the official publications of the Board, as having been received under its patronage and direction, the individual so dismissed shall have the privilege of submitting his case to the revision of the Board, at an annual meeting.

5. No missionary or assistant missionary of the Board shall engage in any business or transaction whatever for the sake of private gain; nor shall any one engage in transactions or employments yielding pecuniary profit, without first obtaining the consent of his brethren in the mission; and the profits, in all such cases, shall be placed at the disposal of the mission.

6. The missionaries and assistant missionaries are regarded as having an equitable claim upon the churches, in whose behalf they go among the heathen, for an economical support, while performing their missionary labors; and it shall be the duty of the Board to see that a fair and equitable allowance is made to them, taking into view their actual circumstances in the several countries where they reside.

7. When missionaries or assistant missionaries return home, their connection with the Board shall cease as soon as there is no longer a reasonable probability of their returning to their missionary labor.

8. When superannuated or disabled missionaries or assistant missionaries, or the widows of missionaries or

assistant missionaries, return to this country with the approbation of the Prudential Committee, it shall be the duty of the Committee to make such grants towards their support, as the circumstances of each case shall require, and as shall best comport with the missionary character and the interests of the missionary cause;—it being understood,

(1.) That no pensions or annuities are to be settled on any person, and that no grant is to be made, except in extraordinary cases, for any other than the current year.

(2.) That, except in extraordinary cases, after the lapse of a year from their return, no grant is to be made to returned missionaries or assistant missionaries, who are neither superannuated, nor disabled by sickness, and yet are not expected to resume their missionary labors.

(3.) That missionaries and assistant missionaries, who return on account of sickness, and recover their health, and remain in this country, are no longer to be regarded as having claims upon the Board for pecuniary assistance.

(4.) That missionaries and assistant missionaries, who return on account of sickness, and partially recover their health so as to attend to the ordinary business of life for a number of years, are not to be regarded, when they again lose their health, as having the same claims upon the Board, as they had when they first arrived.\*

9. The grants made to returned missionaries and assistant missionaries shall, in all ordinary cases, be charged to the missions to which they last belonged, as a part of the expenses of said missions.

10. When parents, who are missionaries or assistant

\* The object of the 7th and 8th Regulations is neither to increase nor diminish the claims of returned missionaries and assistant missionaries, but chiefly to *define them*. The seventh regulation states what has in fact been the general usage in respect to those who have left the service of the Board. A dismission has generally been asked by the missionary, and voted by the Prudential Committee. A usage, so evidently proper when missionaries cease to be directed by the Committee, and no longer have a reasonable prospect of again entering the service of the Board, is now prescribed as a duty in all cases.—Lest it should be thought that a dissolution of the connection with the Board as missionaries, involves of course a destruction of all claims on the Board for pecuniary assistance, Regulation *eighth* recognises certain claims as existing, notwithstanding this dissolution, and defines them as specifically, perhaps, as can be done with the present amount of experience on this subject.—The approbation of the Prudential Committee, required in the regulation, may be either before or after the return of the missionary. To obtain it afterwards, it will be necessary that the mission, to which the returning missionary belongs, shall have formally consented to his return.

missionaries of the Board, are desirous of sending their children to this country for education, or for a permanent residence unless qualified and disposed at a future time to engage in the work of missions among the heathen, the Prudential Committee, at their discretion, may allow a sum adequate to defray the necessary travelling expenses of the children from the missions with which their parents are connected, to the place where the children are to be educated or to reside.

11. After the children have arrived in this country, the Prudential Committee at their discretion may allow, for a *boy*, an annual sum not exceeding fifty dollars;—the allowance not to be continued after the child is eighteen years of age, and the whole sum allowed for any one boy, after his arrival in this country, not to exceed three hundred dollars: and for a *girl*, an annual sum not exceeding forty dollars;—the allowance not to be continued after the child is eighteen years of age, and the whole sum allowed for any one girl, after her arrival in this country, not to exceed two hundred and forty dollars.

12. In ordinary cases, it shall be presumed that a child does not need pecuniary assistance, when no application is made to the Prudential Committee for such assistance by the parent or guardian; and the grants shall be made only for the current year, and not without reason to believe that they are required by the circumstances of the children.

13. In case children are left without either parent, and there is no missionary family, or christian friend, or guardian, by whom such children could be well taken care of in the mission, the Board will then authorise the removal of the children to this country, and will provide for them according to article eleventh.

14. The allowances made on account of the children of living missionaries, or assistant missionaries, in the service of the Board, wherever the children may be educated, shall be charged to the mission to which the parents belong.

15. The allowance made on account of orphan children shall, in ordinary cases, be charged to the mission to which the parents belonged at the time of their decease.

16. The Board regard it as not consistent with the multiplied cares and duties of the Prudential Committee,

for them to undertake the guardianship of the children of missionaries sent to this country.

#### 6. THE MISSIONS.

1. A majority of missionaries and assistant missionaries in any mission shall, in their regular meetings, decide all questions that may arise in regard to their proceedings and conduct, in which the mission is interested, the decision being subject to the revision of the Prudential Committee. At such meetings every male missionary and assistant missionary present, having arrived at the age of twenty-one years, is entitled to a vote.

2. It shall be a standing rule, applicable to all missionaries and agents of the Board, that real estate shall not be purchased at the expense of the Board, nor money loaned belonging to the Board, without the express permission of the Prudential Committee previously obtained.

#### 7. PERMANENT FUND FOR THE SUPPORT OF OFFICERS.

The permanent funds for Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer, heretofore kept distinct, shall be merged in one, and be called the "*Fund for support of Officers*;" and the avails of this fund shall be appropriated to the support of the Secretaries and the Treasurer of the Board, at the discretion of the Prudential Committee; provided that a strict regard be had to the intentions of donors in such appropriations.

#### 8. LIBRARY OF THE BOARD, CURIOSITIES, ETC.

1. The Library of the Board shall be regarded as embracing the books, maps, manuscripts, pictures, etc. at the Missionary Rooms, and all the books, maps, etc. appropriated to the use of the several missions, and not included in the original outfit of the missionaries, nor purchased at their private expense. The Library at the Rooms shall be placed in charge of a librarian appointed by the Prudential Committee; and those of the several missions shall be placed in charge of a librarian appointed, in ordinary cases, by the mission itself, who shall be accountable for the books to the mission and to the Prudential Committee.

2. The curiosities deposited in the Missionary Rooms, and consisting of idol gods and other objects of superstition, together with specimens in natural history, etc. interesting on account of their being brought from countries which are fields for missionary exertion, shall be carefully preserved, arranged, and labelled, and kept in a room provided for the purpose, under the direction of the Prudential Committee.

**9. INTERCOURSE WITH OTHER SOCIETIES, AND WITH ECCLESIASTICAL BODIES.**

1. A friendly intercourse shall be maintained with other protestant societies in this and other lands, which are engaged in the benevolent design of propagating the gospel of Jesus Christ.

2. The Board will send to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of the United States, to the Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church, and to the several General Associations in the New England States, as many copies of the annual Report and other printed documents, as shall be sufficient to furnish those bodies with the means of information with regard to the state and necessities of the Board, its operations, and the success which God may grant to its exertions.

100

100

100

100











3 2044 024 402 042

THE BORROWER WILL BE CHARGED  
THE COST OF OVERDUE NOTIFICATION  
IF THIS BOOK IS NOT RETURNED TO  
THE LIBRARY ON OR BEFORE THE LAST  
DATE STAMPED BELOW.

